

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) a mature form of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16;~~

~~(b) a variant of a mature form of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16, wherein any amino acid in the mature form of the chosen sequence is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 20% of the amino acid residues in the sequence of the mature form are so changed;~~

~~(c) the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16;~~

~~(d) a variant of the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16, in which any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 20% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed;~~

~~(e) a nucleic acid fragment encoding at least a portion of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16, or any variant of said polypeptide wherein any amino acid of the chosen sequence is changed to a different amino acid, provided that no more than 10% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed; and~~

~~(f) the complement of any of said nucleic acid molecules.~~

6. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence ~~of a naturally occurring allelic nucleic acid variant.~~
SEQ ID NO: 7.

7. (currently amended) An isolated ~~The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 that encoding s a splice variant polypeptide consisting of a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 1-360 and 433-1043 of SEQ ID NO:8. wherein the variant polypeptide has the polypeptide sequence of a naturally occurring polypeptide variant.~~

8. (currently amended) An isolated ~~The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a single nucleotide polymorphism encoding said a splice variant polypeptide consisting of a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 1-360, 433-684 and 691-1043 of SEQ ID NO:8.~~

9. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid molecule ~~comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting~~ ing of

(a) ~~the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15;~~

(b) ~~a nucleotide sequence wherein one or more nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15 is changed from that given by the chosen sequence to a different nucleotide provided that no more than 20% of the nucleotides are so changed;~~

(c) ~~a nucleic acid fragment of the sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15; and~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid fragment wherein one or more nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15 is changed from that given by the chosen sequence to a different nucleotide provided that no more than 20% of the nucleotides are so changed.~~

10. (currently amended) An isolated ~~The nucleic acid molecule comprising a of claim 5, wherein said nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, or 15, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence.~~

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~5~~ 11.
13. (original) The vector of claim 12, further comprising a promoter operably linked to said nucleic acid molecule.
14. (original) A cell comprising the vector of claim 12.
- 15-18. (canceled)
19. (withdrawn) A method for determining the presence or amount of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 in a sample, the method comprising:
- (a) providing said sample;
 - (b) introducing said sample to a probe that binds to said nucleic acid molecule; and
 - (c) determining the presence or amount of said probe bound to said nucleic acid molecule, thereby determining the presence or amount of the nucleic acid molecule in said sample.
- 20-29. (canceled)
30. (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 31-32. (canceled)
33. (currently amended) A kit comprising in one or more containers, the ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition of claim 30.
- 34-40. (canceled)
41. (withdrawn) A method for determining the presence of or predisposition to a disease associated with altered levels of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 in a first mammalian

subject, the method comprising:

- (a) measuring the amount of the nucleic acid in a sample from the first mammalian subject;
and
 - (b) comparing the amount of said nucleic acid in the sample of step (a) to the amount of the nucleic acid present in a control sample from a second mammalian subject known not to have or not be predisposed to, the disease;
- wherein an alteration in the level of the nucleic acid in the first subject as compared to the control sample indicates the presence of or predisposition to the disease.

42-43. (canceled)